

COMMUNICATIONS

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All buildings in course of erection are inspected periodically to ensure that they comply with the regulations in force. Seventy-eight permanent building permits were issued in 1947, compared with 21 in the previous year. 453

Crown Lands

The Director of Public Works is also Commissioner and Registrar of Lands, and all transfers of immovable property made during the year were duly registered after the various titles had been carefully scrutinised. 421

Eighteen parcels of Crown land were also leased during the year to the general public for various building purposes, compared with two in 1946.

Stores

All work is carried out departmentally by direct labour, and consequently large stocks of building and other stores have to be kept. Delivery of most goods from the United Kingdom during 1947 was much better than in the previous year, and stores to the value of £15,000 were issued to the various works during the year under review. 422

Labour

Little or no difficulty was experienced in obtaining artisans or labourers until the latter part of the year, when a large number of masons and carpenters left for more lucrative employment in the Persian Gulf. The standard of workmen is not high, and the establishment of a Trade School which Government have under consideration would go a long way to raise the standard of local craftsmen to a higher level. 417

BROADCASTING

There has been no broadcasting service since the Aden Station ZNR closed down at the end of 1945. Towards the end of 1947 the re-introduction of this service, at least for emergency purposes, was proposed, and the possibility of reviving broadcasting, whether for emergency purposes or as a regular service, considered. 407

Number of wireless receiving licences	635
Number of radio diffusion subscribers	Nil

Chapter 11 : Communications

ROADS

There are no railways in the Colony, and communication between the various townships is by road. 490

The main roads are constructed in bituminous macadam, and average 20 feet in width. Some secondary roads are similarly constructed, 491

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

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PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION

Criticism of the Information Department, which had been persistent but mild while the cost fell on His Majesty's Government, was intensified when, in accordance with imperial policy, the cost of Colony services was transferred to Colony funds, and an investigation into the activities of the Department was made by a special committee during 1941. In accordance with their recommendations the Governor set up an Advisory Committee for the Department on which unofficial opinion was well represented, and the Department was allowed to continue for a further year. The policy for the future is still under consideration. But in the meantime, such steps as were possible were taken to reduce undesirable activities and concentrate available resources on approved services. The local newspaper run by Government was discontinued, though the question of giving assistance to some newspaper is still under consideration. The reading rooms in the Colony were closed.

On the other hand, provision for mobile cinema was increased from one to three. A public address system was installed throughout the Forties, is being extended to Sheikh Othman, and was used for daily announcements of public interest.

Plans are under consideration for a regular broadcasting service, to serve both the Colony and the Protectorate, and if this comes into operation, the Arabic news will also be put over the public loudspeakers.

The Information Officer imported a series of weekly pamphlets giving information, in English and Arabic, regarding Government intentions and achievements, and explanations in simple language of laws and regulations which were brought into force.

The routine activities of the Information Department, including the supply of news reels to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kismayo, were maintained during the year.

Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the *fa* (failla), which is normally 25 lb. but varies for different commodities.

Chapter 5: Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers are published in the Colony:

Reuters Bulletin (daily issue), published by Reuters' Agent in Aden, P. & O. House, Beacon Point, Aden.

Fatat-el-Jazirah (weekly Arabic paper), published by Mohamed Ali Luqman, Crater, Aden.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

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and size piers. Manoeuvre marine matters are dealt with by the Port Office. The present incumbent is also Superintendent of Lighthouses.

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The Port has continued to thrive throughout the period and there has been a further increase in the number and tonnage of ships using the harbour. There has been an increase in the number of ships calling for the purpose of bunkering and a consequent increase in the business done by the oil supplying companies. Coal bunkering has shown the falling off noticeable in previous years.

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The Aden Port Trust publishes an annual report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INFORMATION OFFICE

The Public Relations and Information Office continued under the part-time supervision of the District Commissioner with an Advisory Committee representing local opinion. In accordance with their recommendations the main activity has been the showing of films and documentary films, in English and Arabic, at clubs and in public open spaces.

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A regular series of Bulletin, in English and Arabic and occasionally Gujarati, was published on departmental activities and matters of local interest, and these are now issued from time to time on special topics. Regular news sheets were issued in 1949 and early in 1950, but these have now been replaced by occasional press conferences with Heads of Departments on the local Arab press is increasing in circulation and experience and becoming more qualified to give publicity to Government intentions and achievements.

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There is no local broadcasting system, news and entertainment being offered direct by the B.B.C. Arabic Service and the broadcasting stations of Cairo, Delhi, Damascus, Baghdad and other Arab countries. A public address system, with loud-speakers in open spaces in the main centres of population, is used for announcements of importance.

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Public reading rooms in the Colony, which had been set up by the Ministry of Information during the war, were closed as a measure of economy in 1948, but these were maintained in the Protectorate.

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The routine activities of the Office which includes the supply of news copies to commercial cinemas, the distribution of periodicals to institutions and interested persons, and the provision of information services to the Aden Protectorate and Kamarat, were maintained during the year.

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Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

Imperial weights and measures are the legal standard, but a number of local and Indian measures are in use, particularly the *franka*, which is normally 25 lb. but varies for different commodities.

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PRESS, BROADCASTING AND INFORMATION SERVICES 49206

United States of America and Canada. In 1951 there were 1,400 telephones in use and in 1952 there were 1,496.

The telephone service cannot cope with the demands made upon it and plans to extend it were completed in 1951. It is hoped that in 1954 it will be possible to meet all demands.

There is no internal telegraph system conducted by Government. General cable telegraphic communication is provided by Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd., and they also operate various services to places including Perim Island, Kamaras, Mukalla and Sa'ien.

There were 1,022 radio receiving licences issued in 1951 and 1,044 in 1952.

Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting and Information Services

PRESS

The following are the more important periodicals published in Aden : 204

Official Government Gazette	English Weekly
Reserve Bulletin	English Daily (Reserve) for subscribers only.
Fanar Al Ibrah	Arabic Weekly
Al Nahda	Arabic Weekly
Akshar Al Junub	Arabic Weekly
Al Fathool	Arabic Weekly

During 1951-2 a sum of £31,965 was provided to set up a Government printing press. The building of the premises was begun in November, 1951, but the machinery and equipment had not been entirely installed by the end of 1952.

BROADCASTING

There is no local broadcasting system in the Colony. Reasonably good reception, however, is possible throughout the year from the B.B.C. and from stations in the Middle East which broadcast regular programmes in English and Arabic. 207

Messrs. Cable and Wireless Ltd. have a station which can be used on request.

INFORMATION SERVICES

In March, 1952, the Public Relations and Information Office was closed down and most of its activities absorbed into other Government departments, a move undertaken in the interests of economy and in the belief that increased efficiency and service to the public would result. 204 546

The main activities of the Office prior to March, 1952, were the publication of bulletins in English and Arabic on departmental activities and special topics of interest, the arrangement of occasional press conferences with departmental heads, and the regular distribu-

ADEN COLONY AND PROTECTORATE

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Britain provide for post-secondary education, but it is hoped eventually to develop Aden College to university standard. Working-class houses were being built to replace insanitary houses of matting, but the shortage of housing remained one of the most important problems. In 1952 a scheme which had been under discussion in Aden for five years, to supplement the existing civil hospital of 350 beds with a new 600-bed hospital, received Colonial Office approval. However, rising costs and delays in the supply of equipment have caused the postponement of plans to provide water-borne sewerage and to expand the electricity supply and the automatic telephone system, which were desirable to keep pace with the large increase in population.

Cable & Wireless Ltd provide cable and telegraph communication with all parts of the world and operate a radio triangulation station working to the countries of the southern Red Sea area. In 1950 a radio-telephone service was opened to Great Britain and the three British East African territories. In 1950 BOAC made Aden the base for its Red Sea services and formed a subsidiary organization called Aden Airways; regular services are available to all the surrounding territories by these and other air lines. The terminal building of a civil airport is still under construction. The garrison is under the command of the senior RAF Officer, Aden. Apart from RAF personnel the Aden levies, which are recruited locally and number some 2,000 men, are available for service in the Colony and on special duties in the Protectorate.

History

In Himyarite times and earlier, traffic in incense gave considerable prosperity to what is now Aden Protectorate. The main incense road to the Mediterranean, through Sana, Mecca, and Petra, started from Hama al-Ghorab (Raven Castle), a tiny rock-island off the Hadramaut coast, some 200 miles east of modern Aden. This land route survived with diminishing importance until about the sixteenth century. Towards the end of that century English traders began to look East, and in 1600 Queen Elizabeth granted a charter to the East India Company. Its primary object was to establish British trade in India in competition with their maritime rivals, the Portuguese and Dutch. As a first exploit an expedition was dispatched to Aden and the Red Sea, but, failing to open up a factory at Socotra, it was withdrawn in 1608. Next year a second expedition reached Aden, but Turkish permission to establish a factory was refused. In 1614 the Dutch, who had formed a rival East India Company